

Remarks:

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14-29 and 36 remained pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11, 12 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Rumer (US 6,486,462). Claims 1-8, 12 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on Park (US 6,714,353). Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17-22, 24-29 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Slobodin (US 6,334,685) in view of Hwang (US 6,588,906). Claim 13 is indicated allowable if rewritten to incorporate the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although applicants respectfully traverse the rejections set forth above, and do not concede to the availability of any of the cited references as prior art, in the interest of furthering prosecution of the present application, applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. In particular, the Examiner notes that the "prior art of record neither shows nor suggests all of the elements comprised by claim 13 in combination, and in particular the use of dichroic mirrors to provide interlacing structure is not taught."

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 12 and 13 (prior to this Amendment, claim 13 depended from claim 12, which depended from claim 1). As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that claim 13 would be allowable if placed in independent form. Claim 1 thus is understood to be in allowable form. Claims 2-9, 11 and 14 depend from claims 1, and thus are also understood to be in allowable form. Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice, the subject matter of such claims having been incorporated into amended claim 1.

Page 7 - AMENDMENT
Serial No. 10/608,972
HP Docket No. 200208828-1
KH Docket No. HPCC 390

Claim 15 also has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13. In particular, claim 15 now recites "providing a plurality of dichroic mirrors configured to interlace the separated light bands." Claim 15 thus also is understood to be in allowable form. Claims 16 and 18 depend from claim 15, and thus are also understood to be in allowable form. Claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice.

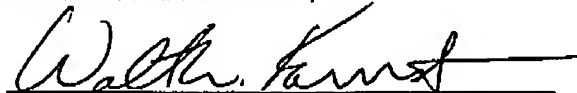
Finally, claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 13, and thus now recites "interlacing the separated light bands using a plurality of dichroic mirrors." Claim 19 thus is understood to be in allowable form. Claims 20-22 and 24-28 depend from claim 19, and thus are also understood to be in allowable form. Claims 29 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Regarding the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter, applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the allowability of the subject matter of claim 13, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicants believe that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed. Furthermore, applicants believe that the claims were allowable prior to this Amendment, and reserve the right to pursue these claims through further application(s).

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner Issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner M. Koval, Group Art Unit 2851, Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on November 15, 2005.



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Page 9 - AMENDMENT
Serial No. 10/608,972
HP Docket No. 200208828-1
KH Docket No. HPCC 390